

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3872
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
DUPLICATION OF VALUABLE ITEMS IN NATIONAL MUSEUM
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that many valuable items in the National Museum in New Delhi have been replaced with duplicates;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to probe into the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the finding of the Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The Government has set up a Physical Verification Committee in 1996 for verification of art objects of National Museum. Based on a Public Interest Litigation filed in 1997 before it, the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi had directed that the reports of this Committee may be submitted to it regularly. Thus, the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring this aspect closely and regularly. The reports of the Physical Verification Committee are being submitted to the Hon'ble Court regularly and in fact, recently in December, 2000 the Court has disposed of the above petition.